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October 9, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOMECOMING PARADE TO FEATURE NINE BANDS

CHARLESTON -- The streets of Charleston will once again be crowded with floats, bands and lots of candy as Eastern Illinois University celebrates Homecoming 1998.

The annual parade --featuring 110 units -- will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the corner of Seventh Street and Lincoln Avenue, making its way north on Seventh Street to the Charleston Square, then back south via Sixth Street. Floats will depict this year's homecoming theme -- "EIU...A Story Yet To Be Told."

Along with Eastern's marching band, the parade will feature several area middle and high school bands competing for prizes. Joe Manfredo, Eastern's band director, said seven high school and two middle school bands are participating.

"We had 13 bands apply to compete, but we could only take nine," Manfredo said. "This is a great year for band participation. A few years ago it was hard to find bands to compete in the parade."

Competing bands will represent Altamont, Brownstown, Charleston, Flora, Hume/Shiloh,

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HOMECOMING

Marshall, Mt. Vernon, and Paris schools.

The bands will compete in two divisions -- those with 50 members or less and those with more than 50 members. Three area high school band directors will judge the competition.

"The judges will look at three main areas: music performance, marching performance and the general effect or showmanship," Manfredo said.

One winner will be chosen in both divisions, and the other bands will receive participation awards.

Immediately after the parade, EIU alumni, students, staff and community members are encouraged to visit Alumni Tent City, located west of O'Brien Stadium.

Steve Rich, executive director of Eastern's Alumni Association, said a total of 14 tents will be erected at Tent City. EIU's four academic colleges will be represented, as will the president's office, minority affairs, the Graduate School and the School of Adult and Continuing Education, the alumni band, cheerteam and four Greek organizations.

Rich said this is the fourth year for Alumni Tent City, but this is the first year Greek organizations have been involved.

At this year's Homecoming football game, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m., the EIU Panthers will host the Illinois State Redbirds. Tickets for the game may be purchased the day of the game at O'Brien Stadium. Adult tickets will cost \$9; \$7 for seniors; \$5 for children ages four through high school; and free for those under four. Eastern students are admitted free with their Panther I.D.

During the half-time show, Eastern's Alumni Association will honor four distinguished alumni and one outstanding young alumnus. This year's award recipients are: Joan Allen (ex '78)

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of New York, N.Y.; Vicki Freimuth ('66) of Atlanta, Ga.; Allen Grosboll ('73) of Petersburg; Mike Shanahan ('74) of Denver, Colo., Distinguished Alumnus Awards; and Michelle Koehler ('93) of Seattle, Wa., Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

The Alumni Office also will host an open house from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at Linder House, 1544 Fourth Street. Refreshments will be provided.

Other events occurring earlier during Homecoming week include a pep rally and bonfire at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the tennis courts near Lawson and Taylor residence halls. The Pink Panthers and the cheerteam will perform, and everyone, including the general public, is welcome to attend.

More than 40 organizations plan to compete in various other activities during the week-long celebration, including the crowning of the Homecoming king, queen and freshman attendants at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in Lantz Gymnasium.

At 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, on EIU's South Quad, different organizations across campus will act out "Fractured Fairytales." Melissa Girtten, overall Homecoming coordinator, said groups will act out stories assigned to them.

"They will put on a skit and make them as politically correct as they can," Girtten said.

Fun Games will begin at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, also in the South Quad. Organizations compete in various races and games to win points.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, a pancake breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. in the University Union Rathskellar. Girtten said tickets will be available for \$1.25 until Wednesday (Oct. 14) afternoon at the cashing station in the Union.